Information Management Systems/ Reference File Management (IMS/RFM)

Assessment

INTEREST	TESTER	PROG OFFICE	ENG GROUP	USER	SECURITY	SYS ADMIN
TECHNICAL	X	X	X			X
INFORMATIONAL	X			X		X
FUNCTIONAL		X	X			

Technical = requirements **Functional** = enhancements

Developer: SRA, Fairlakes, VA
Government POC: Tom Barr
SME: Bill Curtis and Vernon Harris (JCCS)
JITC Team: Holly Lund and Luanne Overstreet

Assessment Objectives:

This was an assessment of the IMS/RFM functionality on the new operating environment (DII COE 3.0) only. There were no test procedures and the assessment application was not measured against requirements. JITC was present at all times and documented comments and prepared pre-assessment and post-assessment documentation. The user and JITC avoided all comment that may have caused redirection to the scope of the product. JITC was responsible to the Joint Staff and the PMO to bring all issues, questions, comments, and concerns to the appropriate GCCS representative.

User Expectations:

Observation of an application that functions as well as the current IMS/RFM resident in GCCS v2.2. Fully expects to be able to convert the reference files' data tables to flat sequential files, using RFM and to be able to transfer data text to other applications.

Assessment Results:

The overall assessment was positive. The requirements were met with the exception of "selection of reference files" (problem areas are detailed in paragraph 1 below). Additionally, the SMEs requested an additional capability for IMS/RFM that they would like to include in future releases of this application. This is the ability to conduct tape transfers. We have included an Operational Impact Statement in paragraph 2 below for PMO and JS consideration.

When considering existing requirements for this application, the SME felt that the application should be integrated into GCCS v3.0, however, a requirement there still exists for the "selection of reference files" and "user documentation". The following are the specific comments/concerns from the SME:

1. The selection of LFF as a reference file is not available in v3.0. It was, however, in v2.2. Workaround: The OSF can include LFF in the default file profile prior to releasing the application to the field.

2. There currently is no GUI for tape transfer. The capability does exist, however, only a Systems Administrator can get to the area necessary to perform this function. SRA indicated that a script could be generated, and provided these steps to an OSF test representative. This capability needs to be available to the average user. The operational impact statement from SME is as follows:

"There are applications external to the SIPRNET that require standard JOPES reference files data. The only means to move data to external applications is through the use of removable magnetic media. Because of the volume of data in some reference files, the media of choice is tape. The GCCS COE includes 4mm and 8mm tape devices which can be used for this purpose. Diskettes with a 1.4 megabyte capacity are also available. The file most often required is the GEOFILE. There are also requirements for the TUCHA and LFF. The TUDET is also a candidate for export to external applications. Examples of organizations which could not be supported would be the Defense Finance and Accounting System and the J-4, Joint Staff, for logistics modeling. There could also be *problems for systems such as MAGTF II, JFAST, and JFRG which are not hosted on the GCCS server platform."*

3. Currently the documentation/user manual is part of the System Services Administrator's manual. The SMEs stated that there should be a separate user manual for IMS/RFM users. This manual should also include the directory structure for ease of locating/transferring files. As an effort to aid the user, the structure is documented below:

NOTE: *The previous structure is documented in appendix B of the System Services Administration Manual. Provided is a mapping of the old directories within /h/IMS_RFM as they relate to the new ones.*

OLD	**NEW**
/h/IMS_RFM/app-defaults	/h/IMS_RFM/data/app-defaults
/h/IMS_RFM/bin	/h/IMS_RFM/bin /h/IMS_RFM/sql /h/data/global/IMS_RFM/IMS
/h/IMS_RFM/bitmaps	/h/IMS_RFM/data/Icons
/h/IMS_RFM/files	/h/IMS_RFM/data/Help /h/data/global/IMS_RFM/RFM
/h/IMS_RFM/refapp_dir	/h/IMS_RFM/bin
/h/IMS_RFM/imsdata	/h/data/global/IMS_RFM/tpfdds
/h/IMS_RFM/imsdata/refs	/h/data/global/IMS_RFM/ref_files

NEW DIRECTORIES:

/h/IMS_RFM/Integ	- Holds Segmenting files
/h/IMS_RFM/Scripts	- Holds the startup scripts
/h/IMS_RFM/SegDescrip	- Holds Segmenting files
/h/IMS_RFM/install	- Holds install logs

A brief description of the directories in /h/data/global:

/h/data/global/IMS_RFM

/IMS - Holds the ims_apps file used by IMS

/JFAST - Holds files "transferred to JFAST"

NOTE: "/model" is linked to this directory.

/MEPES - Holds files "transferred to MEPES"

/RFM - Holds the refapp_info file used by RFM

ref_files - Holds extracted reference files

/tpfdds - Holds extracted TPFDDs and holds the tpfdd_info1 file which contains information about TPFDDs.

4. Developer stated that the JPET source for TPFDD has some unresolved security issues and would not be delivered with GCCS 3.0. The SMEs were not effected by this news. The assessment team is unsure of the impact.

5. The "Help" window needs to be more descriptive. The SMEs were unsure of what the "*" in the date column for updating files meant, and the help was not very useful overall.

6. RFM file dates shown to users should default to the current header date of the file vice the file modification date. Workaround: The user can manually change the date.

7. SMEs were not previously aware of the effort to replace DART interfaces with TPEDIT. Some concern was expressed as to what capabilities are being fielded for v3.0 and the documentation to cover those items that were added/deleted.

Recommendation:

The SMEs felt that the application was usable, but required workarounds for those functions not available.